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tained in a trough holding about a barrel of water were introduced into a dark closet in a cellar ; the water was occasionally changed, and they were well supplied with food, consisting of *Confervæ*, leaves, grass, and some animal matter. The thermometer in the closet ranged from  $33^{\circ}$  to about  $60^{\circ}$  F. They measured, at the time of introduction, between three and four inches in length ; as they were probably hatched in the spring, they were therefore about six months old.

During the month of September, 1852, (ten months after they were introduced into the cellar,) a few were removed to another trough, which, though under cover, was exposed to the ordinary light, and the temperature of the air ; these tadpoles soon exhibited signs of metamorphosis ; their legs were developed and their tails absorbed.

The remainder have now been seventeen months in the cellar, and if (as there can be little doubt) they were hatched in the spring of 1851, they are now (April, 1853) at least nearly two years old. In the mean time they have not materially changed in size ; the legs, which were mere rudiments when they were introduced, have not increased ; and as far as appears, the tadpoles have no tendency to metamorphosis.

Assuming the natural larva period to be one year (and this corresponds with observation), that period has in this experiment been extended to nearly double its usual duration.

It was noticed, that when the thermometer was at its greatest depression, the tadpoles exhibited a much greater degree of activity than fully developed frogs, exposed in the same closet to the same degrees of light and heat. The tadpoles were frequently moving about, when the frogs were wholly torpid.

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**Three hundred and seventy-eighth meeting.**

May 3, 1853. — MONTHLY MEETING.

The VICE-PRESIDENT in the chair.

The Corresponding Secretary read a letter from Lieutenant J. M. Gilliss, of the United States Navy, presenting, from the

Council of the University of Chili, a copy of the *Anales de la Universidad de Chile*, which was laid on the table.

Professor Peirce made a communication on the caloric engine, in reference to the relations of different gases and vapors to heat.

Professor Treadwell followed, with some remarks on the same subject.

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**Three hundred and seventy-ninth meeting.**

May 24, 1853. — ANNUAL MEETING.

The PRESIDENT in the chair.

The attendance of members being very small, on account of the Inauguration of President Walker occurring on the same day at Cambridge, the meeting was adjourned to May 31st, at half past three, P. M.

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**Three hundred and eightieth meeting.**

May 31, 1853. — ADJOURNED ANNUAL MEETING.

The VICE-PRESIDENT in the chair.

The Corresponding Secretary announced that he had received letters from the Royal Academy of Sciences, &c. of Belgium, and the Royal Society of London, acknowledging the reception of Vol. IV. Part II. of the Memoirs of the Academy; from the Royal Institution of Great Britain, acknowledging the reception of Vol. II. of the old Series, and Vol. II. of the Academy's Proceedings, pp. 233–359; a letter from M. Vattermare, presenting, from the Secretary of the Statistical Committee of Belgium, fifteen pamphlets on Political Economy and Statistics, and also urging on the notice of the Academy the advantage of the adoption by all civilized nations of a uniform standard of weights and measures, and of currency; a letter from the Curator of the Museum of Practical Geology of London, presenting, from the British Government, through Sir Henry de la Beche, several valuable works on Geology, published under his superintendence.